

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAM-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 OES-06

DHA-02 /102 W

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R 161458Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE TURKISH CLAIMS TO PART OF CYPRUS DMZ

REF: NICOSIA 1912 (DTG 101033Z JUL 76)

1. DAO AND EMBASSY OFFICER OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION
FROM SENIOR UNFICYP OFFICIALS RE AVLONA DEVELOPMENTS.
APPROXIMATELY 1200 HOURS LOCAL 15 JULY 76 THREE GREEK
CYPRIOT FARMERS ESCORTED BY ONE BRITISH SOLDIER WERE IN THE
DMZ ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS WEST OF AVLONA AND ONE KILOMETER
SOUTH OF TURKISH FDL IN VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES
WD 064920 HARVESTING OR OTHERWISE TENDING CROPS. FARMERS

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AND ESCORT WERE SET UPON BY 15 MAINLAND TURKISH SOLDIERS,
ONE OF WHOM WAS AN OFFICER. TURKISH SOLDIERS DISARMED

BRITISH ESCORT AND TOOK HIS RADIO TO PREVENT HIS NOTIFY-
ING HIS SUPERIOR OF THE INCIDENT. SOLDIERS PROCEEDED TO
BEAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ON THE BACK WITH RIFLE BUTTS AND TO
SLAP THEM ABOUT THE FACE AND NECK. AFTER ADMINISTERING
THE BEATING TURKISH SOLDIERS RETURNED TO THEIR LINES.
FARMERS WITH ESCORT FLED TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT LINES.
GREEK CYPRIOTS INFORMED DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR, GOC, OF THE BEATINGS, WHO IN TURN PROTESTED TO
UNFICYP.

2. GOC UN REP ROSSIDES IS REPORTED TO HAVE PROTESTED
INCIDENT TO UNSYG WALDHEIM NIGHT OF 15-16 JULY. PART OF
PROTEST TO UNSYG IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DEALT WITH LONG-RANGE
IMPLICATION OF BARRING ECONOMIC USE OF DMZ WITH LOSS TO
GOC OF "MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS".
ROSSIDES APPARENTLY REQUESTED SYG HELP IN ENSURING RESUMED
LIMITED ENTRY TO DMZ TO IRRIGATE ORCHARDS AND HARVEST
CROPS SUCH AS MELONS SUBJECT TO SPOILAGE.

3. ONE UNFICYP OFFICIAL ALSO STATED HIGH-RANKING TURKISH
FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMBER (BARUTCU) IS BEING DISPATCHED TO CYPRUS
16 JULY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. THIS MAY BE IN RESPONSE
TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR INITIATIVE IN ANKARA.

4. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD
THAT SENIOR POLAD REMY GORGE, CURRENTLY ACCOMPANYING
UN SPEC REP PEREZ DE CUELLAR ON ANKARA-ATHENS VISITS, IS
BEING SENT BACK TO CYPRUS IMMEDIATELY TO COPE WITH
POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH AVLONA INCIDENTS.

5. BECAUSE BEATING INCIDENT OF 15 JULY OCCURRED OUTSIDE
OF PREVIOUSLY-DISPUTED "AVLONA" AREA, UNFICYP SEES IT AS
DELIBERATE TURKISH FIRST ACT TO BROADEN ISSUES NOW AT
STAKE IN AVLONA AND TO EXTEND THEM TO THE ENTIRE DMZ.

6. 15 JULY INCIDENT IS ONLY MOST RECENT OF SEVERAL IN DMZ
THIS WEEK WHICH SUGGEST THAT TURKS ARE WILLING TO TAKE
ACTION TO ENFORCE THEIR POLICY THAT DMZ SHOULD BE AVAILABLE
FOR USE BY BOTH GREEK AND TURK CYPRIOTS OR THAT THERE
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SHOULD BE NO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN DMZ. FOR DETAILS
SEE RECENT DATT REPORTING.

7. COMMENT: FEELING OF HIGH-RANKING UNFICYP MILITARY IS
ONE OF UTTER FRUSTRATION. THEY ARE UNDER STRICT ORDERS
FROM HQ UN TO AVOID ANY INCIDENT THAT MIGHT PREJUDICE
PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S VISIT TO ANKARA-ATHENS TO GET INTER-
COMMUNAL TALKS RESTARTED. FOR MILITARY THIS MEANS ACQUIESCING
TO WORST OF BOTH WORLDS. THEY MUST BAR GREEK CYPRIOTS
FROM DMZ OR TRY TO CONTINUE IN AS NORMAL FASHION AS POSSIBLE.

IN LATTER CASE IF INCIDENT SUCH AS BEATING OCCURS
THEY MUST DO NOTHING. IN BOTH CASES THEY INCUR ENMITY
OF GREEK CYPRIOTS, BY APPEARING TO ACQUIESCE IN
TURK POSITION ON USE OF THE DMZ, THUS
EXACERBATING THE SITUATION. UNFICYP PERSONNEL AT ALL
LEVELS BELIEVE THAT UN POLITICAL LEVEL HAS LEFT THEM
HOLDING THE BAG BECAUSE OF A LACK OF COURAGE TO FACE UP TO
THE PROBLEM. THEY SAY THAT IN THEIR REPORTING TO NEW YORK
THEY ARE STRESSING THAT POLITICAL ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO
SOLVE PROBLEM SOONEST BECAUSE TENSE SITUATION ALL ALONG
DMZ NEEDS ONLY A SPARK TO BECOME A CONFLAGRATION.
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